



Testimony of Eric W. Gjede  
Assistant Counsel, CBIA  
Before the Committee on Labor and Public Employees  
Hartford, CT  
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**Testifying in opposition to HB 6877 AAC A Minimum Work Week For Persons Performing Janitorial Work**

Good afternoon Senator Gomes, Representative Tercyak, Senator Hwang, Representative Rutigliano and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. My name is Eric Gjede and I am assistant counsel at the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA), which represents more than 10,000 large and small companies throughout the state of Connecticut.

CBIA is opposed to HB 6877.

HB 6877 would require the owner of a 100,000 square foot office, multi-family dwelling consisted of fifty or more units with elevators, private or public institution of higher education, or a museum to ensure that any person providing janitorial services at these locations be guaranteed a thirty hour work week. Failure to provide this work week can lead to a penalty of \$500 for the first offense, followed by \$1,000 for each subsequent offense.

Connecticut is, by most standards, an expensive place to do business. Further, businesses in the state are subject to an increasing number of inflexible mandates that fail to deliver promised benefits, yet always require businesses to incur compliance costs. Connecticut businesses are attempting to compete in a global marketplace, and these costs and inflexible mandates don't apply to their national or international competitors. The state must stop imposing these new mandates and dictating to employers how their businesses must be run.

This bill is an incredible government intrusion into the employer-employee relationship. It dictates how many work hours an employer must provide an employee, regardless of whether or not the employer can afford to provide those hours. Moreover, the most likely result is that a business will have to terminate janitorial staff in order to ensure some of the janitors meet the requirements of this law.

A government fiat requiring employers provide employees with a 30 hour work week will not make that happen. The only way to do that is to lower the cost of doing business and providing employers with relief from business mandates. When a business has a healthier bottom line, they can afford to hire more employees and provide their current employees with more hours and benefits.

We strongly urge you to take no action on HB 6877.